

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action dated September 9, 2004, required the correction of informality in claims 2-10 and claims 2-10 have been correspondingly amended. Claims 1, 2, and 8 have been amended to more particularly describe applicant's invention. You will find enclosed an amended version of the relevant claims. Claims 6 and 7 have been rewritten as independent new claim 11 and dependent new claim 12, respectively. Claim 11 also incorporates the subject matter of claims 1 and 5. Dependent new claims 13, 14, and 15 correspond to claims 8, 9, and 10 respectively. Dependent new claims 16, 17, and 18 correspond to claims 2, 3, and 4 respectively. The Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 7 represent patentable subject matter and it is believed that because of this, new claims 11-18 are in condition of allowance. Consideration of these new and amended claims is respectively requested. No new matter has been added by virtue of these amendments.

Based upon Forster (WO 94/21014), the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. section 102. Forster discloses an arrangement for use with transformers in neon lighting systems that utilizes an isolation circuit to disconnect power under fault conditions. Though Forster describes electrical connections between components, Forster does not describe a physical structure similar to that of the instant invention.

Applicant claims several structural elements absent in Forster. Subpart (a) of applicant's claim 1 discloses an alternating current power track. Forster merely discloses a source of alternating current, presumably a wire. (Figs. 1-4).

Subpart (b) of applicant's claim 1 discloses track heads housing transformers and removably attached and semipermanently electrically connected to the track of subpart (a). Forster does disclose a transformer in Fig. 1, but this transformer is not housed in a track head, nor is it attached to a track much less removably attached. Subpart (c) of applicant's claim 1 discloses a display member removably attached and semipermanently electrically connected to the track head. Forster does disclose a neon display that is merely electrically connected to a transformer. (Fig. 1). Assumedly, the electrical connections described in Forster are permanent. On the other hand, the application as amended claims components that are removably attached to each other and by way of attachment the components become electrically connected. Applicant's invention therefore has numerous advantages over prior art displays such as Forster in that the components of applicant's device can be easily removed, reattached, and rearranged. For these reasons, it is believed that Forster does not anticipate claim 1 as amended, and claim 1 is, therefore, in condition for allowance. Claims 2-10 are dependent claims and it is believed the amendment to claim 1 will result in allowance of claims 2-10 as well.

Another salient feature of applicant's invention is the capability of supporting a plurality of individual track heads and display members without the use of multiple electrical connections. (Claims 1-2). This is accomplished by virtue of the use of an alternating current power track. Because Forster does not disclose an alternating current track, additional transformers and display members would require additional electrical connections. Such an arrangement

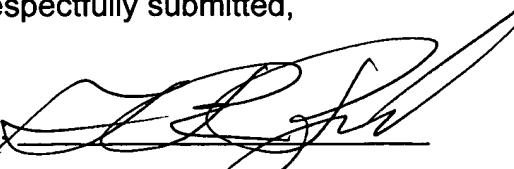
of multiple alternating current electrical connections is neither disclosed nor conceived in Forster. For this reasons it is believed that Forster does not anticipate claim 1 or claim 2 as amended, and claim 1 and claim 2 are, therefore, in condition for allowance. Claims 3-10 are dependent claims and it is believed the amendment to claim 1 and claim 2 will result in allowance of claims 3-10 as well.

Further structures disclosed in the application are absent in Forster. First, the male and female connectors disclosed in applicant's claim 4 are not shown by any of the figures of Forster and Figs. 1-4 of Forster instead indicate a point-to-point connection among components. Second, the coacting connecting means of applicant's claim 5 is not disclosed by the HT leads (7) of Forster, because the HT leads (7) are electrical connections in and of themselves and do not coact as separate components do. Third, The HT lead (7) of Forster merely provides an electrical connection and is not a rigid extension member as disclosed in amended claim 8. Fourth, the HT lead (7) of Forster may be movable in the sense that it is a wire, but the movability is not limited to the body portion as in applicant's claim 9. Fifth, although the HT lead (7) of Forster could be positioned to pivot the display member as described in applicant's claim 10, applicant sees no way the wire of Forster could possible hold a ninety degree angle on its own under the weight of the display member and the transformer. For these reasons it is believed that Forster does not anticipate claims 4, 5, 8, 9, or 10, or make these claims obvious and these claims are, therefore, in condition for allowance.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version showing changes made to claim 1, 2, and 8 and the addition of claims 11-18 by the current amendment. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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